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6 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
7
8 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
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10 RAHINAH IBRAHIM,

No. C 06-00545 WHA

11 Plaintiff,

12 v.

13 DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND
14 SECURITY, *et al.*,

15 Defendants.
16 _____/

**ORDER REGARDING
SECURITY SCREENING
OF COURT PERSONNEL**

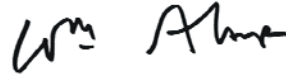
17 Although the Court previously held that court reporters need not be vetted by the
18 screening process generally required for clearance to view sensitive security information (SSI),
19 the undersigned has determined that one of the court reporters in San Francisco, Ms. Connie
20 Kuhl, has been already cleared to view classified information. As an accommodation to the
21 government, and without modifying any previously issued orders, the Court suggests that all
22 depositions be taken as evidentiary hearings in the San Francisco federal courthouse by court
23 reporter Kuhl, and that Ms. Kuhl also serve as the court reporter at trial. The government is free
24 to contact Ms. Kuhl to obtain additional information regarding her prior security clearance, and
25 further vet her as they see fit. Please let the undersigned know as soon as possible whether this
26 suggestion holds promise.

27 The government should also be aware that the judicial assistant to the undersigned was
28 kindly contacted by Mr. Jarett Merk, a security specialist from the Justice Department, whose

1 understanding was that the undersigned's law clerks and other court personnel would be subject
2 to background checks and security screening. No, the Court has already ruled that court
3 personnel will have access to SSI presented in this case and are not subject to the screening
4 process. This will include one law clerk to the undersigned (and his successor, if needed), the
5 deputy courtroom clerk, and the court's judicial assistant as necessary. Very likely, Mr. Merk
6 was not made aware of the Court's prior ruling on this matter, and the undersigned would
7 appreciate if government counsel contacted Mr. Merk directly to apprise him of the status of this
8 case.

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10 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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12 Dated: January 6, 2010.



13 WILLIAM ALSUP
14 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE
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